

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Meeting of the Commission

June 17, 2009

10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Room 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois
and
Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street, Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Acting Chairman Sakhawat Hussain, M.D.

David Chang

Robert S. Enriquez (via telephone)

Marylee V. Freeman

Munir Muhammad

Rozanne Ronen

Gregory Simoncini (via telephone)

Yonnie Stroger

Diane Viverito

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Absent

Spencer Leak, Sr.

Staff

Reva Bauch

LaNade Bridges

N. Keith Chambers

Dr. Ewa I. Ewa

Michael J. Evans

Donyelle L. Gray

Bricia Herrera

Harriet Parker

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Meghan J. Paulas
Christine Welninski
Stephanie Fajuri, Coles Fellow
Erica Gelfand, Coles Fellow
Dan Marovitch, Coles Fellow

I. Call to Order

On June 17, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., Acting Chairman Sakhawat Hussain called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. Chairman Hussain announced that the meeting would be audio recorded and that recording equipment was running.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting without the physical presence of Commissioner Enriquez, Commissioner Leak, and Commissioner Simoncini.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Enriquez gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Harriet Parker, that he would be unable to be physically present for the June 17, 2009 meeting. The Commission voted to allow Commissioner Enriquez to participate in the meeting via telephone.
- 3) Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Simoncini gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Harriet Parker, that he would be unable to be physically present for the June 17, 2009 meeting. The Commission voted to allow Commissioner Simoncini to participate in the meeting via telephone.

II. Consideration of Minutes

May 20, 2009

The minutes of the meeting of May 20, 2009 were approved. Motion made by Commissioner Freeman, with a second by Commissioner Ronen to approve the minutes as submitted by staff. Motion carried 10-0.

III. Staff Reports

- A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director
- B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

During the discussion of the budget, the Commissioners expressed their concern over operations at the agency if the budget is cut significantly.

- C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

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During the discussion of the backlog, the Commissioners expressed their continued concern over the backlog. The Commissioners are troubled that without adequate funding, the Commission's backlog of cases will continue to grow and cases will take too long to get through the system.

D. Harriet Parker, General Counsel

Senate Bill 0048 – The Illinois Torture and Inquiry Relief Commission

The Commissioners approved General Counsel Parker's proposed trailer amendment to this bill for submission to the Governor's Office of the General Counsel. Motion made by Commissioner Ronen, seconded by Commissioner Muhammad. Motion carried 10-0. The Commission also recommends that the Illinois Torture and Inquiry Relief Commission be created as an ad hoc Commission or under the umbrella of the Illinois Hate Crimes Commission.

Regulatory Agenda

The Commissioners voted to approve General Counsel Parker's submission of the proposed Regulatory Agenda to the Governor's Office. Motion made by Commissioner Ronen, seconded by Commissioner Muhammad. Motion carried 10-0.

IV. New Business

Executive Session

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)), the Commissioners voted to close a portion of the public meeting at 10:45 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Muhammad, seconded by Commissioner Freeman. Motion carried 10-0. At 11:45 a.m., the open meeting resumed.

"Doomsday" Budget Scenario

The Commission voted to approve CFO Dr. Ewa's Doomsday Budget Management Plan. Motion made by Commissioner Ronen, seconded by Commissioner Muhammad. Motion carried 10-0.

V. Adjournment.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Muhammad, with a second by Commissioner Chang. Motion carried 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Parker
General Counsel